

NEW SPECIES OF SOUTH AMERICAN PLANTS*

BY FRANCIS W. PENNELL

Since 1893, Professor Henry H. Rusby has been publishing descriptions of new species of South American plants. It has been Dr. Rusby's good fortune to collect in Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia, and to have had the privilege of studying the collections of Mandon, Bang, Williams and Buchtien, from Bolivia and of Herbert H. Smith from Colombia.

Before setting out with the reviewer upon their joint expedition in 1917 to central Colombia, it had been Dr. Rusby's wish to complete the study of the older collections which had been accumulating under his care. The present paper is the deferred accomplishment of this and lays before us 292 new species, 172 from Colombia, 85 from Bolivia, 29 from Venezuela, 3 each from Peru and Brazil. The Colombian species are nearly all from the Smith collection made in the Department of Magdalena, only one, and that entered with doubt, being from our own trip. The Bolivian species are mostly of Buchtien's, Bang's and Williams' collecting, the describer's own plants having been long ago studied. But the Venezuela species are from the expedition of Rusby and Squires in 1896, one which has heretofore been too little cited.

The descriptions appear ample, and specimens are uniformly cited, rarely more than one to a species, thus rendering of small importance the rarity of the use of the word "type." In five instances however species are named for collectors other than those whose specimens have been fully listed and apparently used for description, so that the reader is left in doubt as to which plant should be counted type. The study is attractively presented, on good paper and in clear type, and such a venture, at the author's own expense, deserves more than a passing regard.

At its close the paper contains an index to the genera under which South American species are described in this and all the

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previously published papers by the same author. Thus this paper concludes definitely the past period of Dr. Rusby's activity, and we look forward to the new specimens and the new observations to be brought us from his projected extensive South American journey of 1921.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

The meeting of May 11 was held at the American Museum of Natural History.

J. C. Nelson was elected to membership.

The special program of the evening consisted of an illustrated lecture on Dahlias by Dr. Marshall A. Howe. The speaker sketched the early history of the dahlia referring to its introduction into Europe from Mexico in 1789. A series of lantern slides showed dahlias in their native haunts in Mexico and Guatamala and numerous modern varieties under cultivation at the New York Botanical Garden and elsewhere. The best methods of cultivation and propagation were discussed. The main substance of the discussion may be found in an article published by the speaker in the *Journal of the Horticultural Society of New York* for February, 1919.

MEETING OF MAY 26

The meeting was held at the Morphological Laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden.

The following were elected to membership in the club: Ira W. Clokey, Frederick Dawson, George A. King, Miss Dorothy Oak, and Charles P. Smith.

The secretary announced the death on April 23 of Miss Mary S. Andrews, a member of the club, and read the following article of her will: "I give and bequeath unto the Torrey Botanical Club, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of New York, the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to be used by it in such research work as from time to time shall seem advisable to a majority of the then board of trustees of the Club."